Appendix III.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 313 asked by Sri M. Narayana Kurup at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 4th April 1953, page 851 supra.]

Statement showing diseases affecting the orange cultivation in Wynaad and the results achieved by the measures undertaken by the Agricultural department to control the diseases.

Name of the disease.	*Measures taken to control the disease.*	*Results achieved.*
uit and leaf fall ..	Investigations on the control measures were taken up by the Agricultural department. It was found that the disease was a fungus one a d it could be controlled by spraying the trees and fruits with one per cent 'Bordeaux mixture' twice a year, once just before the commencement of the south-west monsoon and again in September before the advent of the north-east monsoon.	Many fruit growers did not take up to spraying while others failed to take proper precautions in the preparation of the 'Bordeaux mixture.' The result was that the control was not very effective.
oline	In 1948, the Government sanctioned a scheme for the investigation and control of orange diseases in Wynaad for a period of three years with the financial assistance of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The scheme was, however, terminated prematurely on 31st May 1951, as the leading growers who had promised to co-operate with the Agricultural department did not do so and interfered with the experimental plots raised under the scheme. The Director of Agriculture subsequently submitted a fresh scheme for giving aid to the growers for the control and prevention of 'Decline' disease through large-scale employment of the plant protection measures. But this has been deferred in view of the difficult financial position.	The investigations disclosed that the disease was really the result of a large number of factors including— (a) the establishment of plantation on defective sites, (b) failure to prevent soil erosion, (c) failure to apply manures or fertilizers to the trees in adequate quantities, (d) ineffective or defective spraying of Bordeaux mixture against 'fruit and leaf-fall' disease, (e) failure to control the 'stem borer' attack, (f) failure to control 'frenching' and powdery mildew diseases, and above all, (g) the prolonged spells of dry weather from November to April resulting in low moisture content of the top two feet layer of soil from January to March. This period of drought has been particularly severe during the past few years, consequent on which the trees which had already been devitalized, as a result of a large number of other factors, succumbed too easily.

Name of the disease.	Measures taken to control the disease.	Results achieved.
Orange borer	A scheme for research on orange borer was sanctioned with financial assistance from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for a period of three years in G.O. Ms. No. 2488, Development, dated 10th May 1949, and it started working on 12th August 1949. The scheme was terminated on the expiry of the sanction.	The Agricultural department has been able to devise and advocate a cheap and practical method of control of this pest. This consists in removing the wilted twigs of the trees during the months of June to August. This operation has to be done before the young grubs start burrowing into the twigs. Although this is a very efficient measure, it is required to be done by all the growers in their respective plantations, in order that the pest may be controlled effectively in the entire tract. Some of the enlightened growers have adopted this measure with very satisfactory results, though a majority of the growers have not taken up to it, with the consequence that the pest continues to be a menace, Propaganda is being confirmed by the department.

NOTE.—It will be seen from the above that, while the deterioration in the orange plantations of Wynead is no doubt a serious problem, it is one which requires the combined efforts of the growers and the Agricultural department for effecting a lasting solution.

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY